Framework to resolve Indo-China Border dispute

*123. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to proceed towards a framework for resolving vexed border dispute in a fair and reasonable manner keeping in view political perspective of overall bilateral relations;

(b) whether during the month of September, talks on two sides reviewed in a satisfactory manner, progress made in special Representatives' meeting and agreed to proceed from political perspective of overall bilateral relations;

(c) if so, at what stage border dispute is at present and by what time clear picture of settlement is being reached; and

(d) whether both Governments are confident to settle this issue immediately for improvement of relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Based on the first five rounds of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question, both sides signed the "Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India. The sixth round of talks between the Special Representatives was held in Beijing from September 26 to September 28, 2005, which marked the beginning of the second phase of negotiations. In the second phase of negotiations, the two Special Representatives are mandated to work out an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the aforementioned Agreement. Such an agreed framework will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides.

No timeframe has been fixed for the final settlement of the boundary question.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi.

(d) Both India and China have expressed the conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and should, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Sir my supplementary is, what are the major differences between India and China as far as border disputes are concerned? When are they going to meet next and what is the probable agenda during that meeting? Sir, I will put my second supplementary also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one supplementary.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Sir, China has emerged as a large manufacturing base and recently the Chinese Ambassador has also said that India as the world's office in software development and China as the world's factory can go forward. Apart from being the world's office, India has also emerged as the world's leading market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Sir, I am coming to the question. With the advantage of being the world's leading market I would like to know whether our negotiating skills have improved in this dispute.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, the question is with regard to the framework and the hon. Member's question does not come under the purview of the main question. Hon. Member has asked about the dispute between the two countries. As it is known, it is a border dispute for which negotiations are going on. Special representatives of both countries will be meeting. Six times they have already had the discussions and the seventh round of discussion will be here in New Delhi, and date will be decided very soon.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, we are extremely happy that India and China have agreed to seek a reasonable solution to the boundary question with greater urgency. In the month of September in the US in New York, this agreement was reached at the meeting on Wednesday between our hon. Prime Minister and the Chinese President. So, it was a great achievement for our Government. In this connection, I would like to know the economic ties also. They have agreed that it is going to be double trade between the two countries in the next two to three years. So, I would like to know what is the strategy they are going to adopt to achieve these in two to three years. Also I would like to know, Sir, after the sixth round of border talks between Mr. M. K. Narayanan and his counterpart in China, how are they going to achieve this as early as possible?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: There are two questions which the hon. Member has put. One is about the economic relations. Sir, now, both the countries are having very good trade relationship. It has gone up to $ 13.5 billion in trade relationship we have had with China. So far as the boundary talk is concerned, Sir, there are three steps in this regard. The first step is India and China have agreed to have the guiding principles of political parameters on which the hon. Prime Minister, as well as, the Chinese Prime Minister have agreed to. The second is, on the basis of these political parameters and guiding principle, the two special representatives have to continue the discussion to reach the consensus on the agreed framework of the boundary settlement that would involve the specific adjustment to be made by both countries; and as the hon. Member has pointed out the sixth one has already been over. Now, the next one will definitely be held, on a mutually convenient date, at New Delhi and this will lead to the third and the final stage *i.e.* civil and military officials and the surveyors will undertake the delineation and demarcation of boundary on the basis of the agreed frame work. This is the position.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, भारत के कश्मीर का काफी हिस्सा, जो पाकिस्तान के कब्जे में है, उसका कुछ इलाका पाकिस्तान ने चाइना के हवाले कर दिया था। अब यह जो बातचीत चल रही है, क्या इसमें उस इलाके के बारे में भी बातचीत हो रही है, जो कश्मीर का हिस्सा पाकिस्तान ने चाइना के हवाले किया है? आप हाऊस को बताइए कि अगर बातचीत हो रही है तो बात कहाँ तक पहुँची है और उसको वापस लेने के लिए क्या हो सकता है और क्या किया जा रहा है?

†[**شری شاہد صدیقی** : مانیے سبھاپتی مہودے۔ بھارت کے کشمیر کا کافی حصہ، جو پاکستان کے قبضے میں ہے، اس کا کچھ علاقہ پاکستان نے چائنا کے حوالے کر دیا تھا۔ اب یہ جو بات چیت چل رہی ہے، کیا اس میں اس علاقے کے بارے میں بھی بات چیت ہو رہی ہے، جو کشمیر کا حصہ پاکستان نے چائنا کے حوالے کیا ہے؟ آپ ہاؤس کو بتایئے کہ اگر بات چیت ہو رہی ہے تو بات کہاں تک پہنچی ہے اور اس کو واپس لینے کے لئے کیا ہو سکتا ہے اور کیا کیا جا رہا ہے؟]

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, the entire gamut of discussion is on the disputed area. It is quite premature on my part to say anything at this point of time.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: सर, क्या इसमें कोई बातचीत हो रही है? क्या इस मुद्दे को उठाया गया है? यह तो आप बता सकते हैं?....(**व्यवधान**)... यह इश्यू डिसकशन में है या नहीं? कम से कम इतना तो आप बता सकते हैं?

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†[]Transliteration in Urdu Script

†[ ]شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، کیا اس میں کوئی بات چیت ہو رہی ہے؟ کیا اس مدے کو اٹھایا گیا ہے؟ یہ تو آپ بتا سکتے ہیں؟ ....مداخلت..... یہ ایشو ڈسکشن میں ہے یا نہیں؟ کم سے کم اتنا تو آپ بتا سکتے ہیں؟ [ ]

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए। नैक्स्ट। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply. सर, मंत्री महोदय इतना तो बता सकते हैं कि इसके ऊपर कोई बातचीत हो रही है या नहीं? यह मुद्दा एजेण्डे में है या नहीं? कम से कम इतना तो बता सकते हैं। सर, यह तो जवाब ही कुछ नहीं दिया।

†[ ]شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، منتری مہودے اتنا تو بتا سکتے ہیں کہ اس کے اوپر کوئی بات چیت ہو رہی ہے یا نہیں؟ یہ مدعا ایجنڈے میں ہے یا نہیں؟ کم سے کم اتنا تو بتا سکتے ہیں۔ سر، یہ تو جواب ہی کچھ نہیں دیا۔ [ ]

The PRME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, the situation is such that it will be difficult for me to actually give a categorical answer to precise points that have been discussed. The two Special Representatives, appointed by the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of China, are going through various stages. The first stage was the laying down of the broad principle which should guide the delineation of the border. That phase has been completed. When the Chinese Prime Minister was here, we signed a Broad Framework Agreement. Now, the next step for the Special Representatives is to workout an agreed framework for actual delineation or demarcation of the boundary. When that stage is reached, all elements, where there is a difference of opinion or where there is a dispute, they will all be tackled.

Jaleswar-Chandneswar-Digha Road

*124. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to declare Jaleswar-Chandneswar-Digha road as a National Highway in view of its importance to link tourist centres; and

(b) if so, the progress made, so far?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†[]Transliteration in Urdu Script